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Letter dated 23 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my previous letter, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 21 and 22 July 1998.

On those two days, 8 Turkish military aircraft (two RF-4, two C-130, two G-4, one C-160 and one C-235) entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations. The two RF-4 flew over the area of Karpasia and returned to the Ankara flight information region. The CN-235 flew over the area of the cave of Apostle Andreas before returning to the Ankara flight information region. The two C-130, one C-160 and two G-4, landed at the illegal airports of Lefkoniko and Tymbou, and then returned to the Ankara flight information region.

The ten NF-5s that had landed at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko on 18 July 1998, as stated in my previous letter (see A/52/988-S/1998/670), returned to Ankara flight information region on 21 July 1998.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are not only in violation of international air traffic rules, but are at the same time, in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against these repeated provocative acts by Turkey, a Member State of

the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agis LOIZOU
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.